

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE: W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

KIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE ENCHANTRESS.
WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—ROSA GERONIMO.
HUNGARIAN.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, 344 Broadway.—JOHN BULL.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—HALF A DOZ-
EN THE REBELS.NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE STRANGERS.—
THE FUGITIVE.—DEATH OF DEATH.—CRIME THUMB.BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—COW
KING.—LIVING WALLS, &c. at all hours.—ADAM'S OF
LONDON, MICHIGAN AND ENGLAND.BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall.—472 Broad-
way.—DANCING AND SINGING.

COOPER INSTITUTE.—HORSE TANNING BY RABBIT.

CAUTIONS CONCERNING THEATRE, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING
ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS.PEOPLE'S MUSIC HALL, 45 Bowery.—SONGS, DANCES,
BURLESQUES, &c.PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—
Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

New York, Thursday, May 29, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The official report of the battle at Hanover

Court House was received at the War Department

from General McClellan yesterday, from which it

appears that it was a pretty serious affair, result-

ing in a complete rout of the enemy. The rebel

loss in killed and wounded is set down at one thou-

sand, and our loss at three hundred and seventy-

nine killed, wounded and missing, of whom fifty-

three were killed. One hundred of the enemy's

dead were buried on the field by our men. Five

hundred were taken prisoners, and more were

coming in. The rebels in this action were mostly

from Georgia and North Carolina.

There is no later news from General Banks'

column to-day.

Our news from General Halleck's army to-day

is important. His forces are within three-quarters

of a mile of the rebel works at Corinth, and it was

expected that he would open fire on them to-day.

General Halleck is moving towards the works by

regular approaches; and according to the state-

ment of Assistant Secretary of War Scott, who

has just returned from there, a grand battle may

be expected within ten days. General Mansfield

Lovell is reported to have reached Corinth from

New Orleans with 7,000 men—raw recruits for the

most part—and it is stated by deserters that the

rebel troops are existing upon half rations, and

are greatly reduced by sickness.

Despatches from Nashville to the 27th state that

General Mitchell and General Negley had arrived

there on that night. General Mitchell was the

recipient of a serenade. He says that his position

in Alabama is permanent, and reports everything

quiet in Huntsville and the Union feeling increasing.

The Charleston papers of the 21st inst. state that

four of our vessels had shelled three islands in the

harbor on the day previous—namely, Coles, Kiawah

and Goat Islands—and that the rebels had retired

after burning their quarters. Coles Island is

situated at a distance of between twelve and fifteen

miles from the city of Charleston.

The announcement of the surrender of the cities

of Natchez, Warrenton and Vicksburg comes to

us from the rebel journals in those quarters. Our

fleet, after accomplishing the capture of these

three points, is said to be on its way to Memphis.

We give to-day the full particulars of the occupa-

tion of these important points on the Mississippi,

together with sketches of the cities which have

thus fallen into the hands of the Union forces.

In addition to the capture of the cities in the

Mississippi valley, we have information from the

Savannah News that the city of Darien, the capi-

tal of McIntosh county, Georgia, on the banks of

the Altamaha river, lying up from the sea about

twenty miles, was bombarded recently by two

"Yankee" steamers. Darien is located sixty

miles southwest of Savannah and twenty miles

north of Brunswick, which point our forces have

occupied for some time.

The military furor which is elicited in this city

on the departure of fresh troops for the national

capital appears to greet the regiments on their

route. The Seventh was received in Baltimore on

its arrival there on Tuesday afternoon with im-

mense enthusiasm. The Union flag was hoisted

on the public buildings, and so far from any hostile

feeling being manifested in that turbulent city, the

troops were greeted with cheers from the men

and waving of handkerchiefs of the women all

through the streets. Colonel Lefferts received

directions to remain in Baltimore until further or-

ders, and the men were consequently put into

quarters in the Union Bank, the officers locating

themselves at the Entaw House.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, the Vice President

presented a message from the President, in reply

to the resolution of inquiry in reference to certain

arrests in Kentucky, in which the President states

that it is not deemed compatible with the public

interests to give the information asked at present.

The special message from the President, sent into

the House on the previous day, was ordered by the

Senate to be printed. The Soldiers' Bounty bill

was passed. Petitions for a bankrupt act were

the Congressional proceedings. The bill for the purchase of a permanent soldiers' hospital in the District of Columbia was taken up, and some discussion ensued; but no vote on it was taken. A resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a statement of the public debt, and the annual interest thereof. A bill was introduced, and referred to the Military Committee, in reference to limiting the number of volunteers to be mustered into the military service, and prohibiting the enlistment of contrabands. A resolution was introduced regulating the mileage and compensation of contestants for seats. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Mileage, and the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The steamer Columbia, from Havana, arrived here last evening. The news she brings from Mexico is somewhat later, but of no particular importance. The Mexicans are said to be burning and destroying everything in their retreat from the advancing French army. The people were organizing rapidly for the defence of the country against the invaders. Great improvements were going on in Havana. The streets were being greatly enlarged in some places, and trade was gradually increasing. Commerce with New Orleans was being slowly developed. General Priem, recently commander of the Spanish forces in Mexico, was to leave Havana for New York on the 25th inst., and may be expected here to-day or to-morrow. Several Confederate vessels had arrived at Havana. There was some sickness prevalent, but no yellow fever.

We have news from British Honduras, dated at Belize on the 8th of May. A cargo of cotton from Mobile, containing one hundred and one bales, was sold at public auction in Belize, and brought twenty cents a pound. The schooner having it on board ran the blockade, and was making for Havana, when she commenced to leak badly, and was put before the wind into Campeche. From this place the cargo was forwarded to Belize. Captain Hatrick, commander of the schooner, left Belize for New York. The weather was fine. Logwood was scarce and high. Every other article in market at Belize was abundant, low in price, and looking downward.

The fire in Atlanta, Georgia, which occurred on Sunday, the 11th inst., was very destructive. Two large store houses, three grocery stores, one boarding house, and a brick warehouse, full of stores belonging to the Confederate government, were destroyed. Among other articles consumed were 1,955 bales of cotton, 690,000 pounds of bacon and 200 casks of rice. Loss about \$150,000.

The New Mexico expedition is reported to have been abandoned for the present.

The British government, through Lord Lyons, has presented to Captain Thomas P. Stetson, of the packet ship Wm. Frothingham, a splendid gold chronometer watch, in token of its appreciation of his services in rescuing forty-one of the survivors of the British screw transport Spartan, at sea, which vessel was bound to Halifax with arms and ordnance stores, and foundered from the effects of the terrific gales experienced in the early part of February last.

The Commissioners of Emigration did not organize yesterday. From the weekly statement it appears that 3,475 emigrants arrived at this port during the week ending on the 28th inst., making a total of 17,706 who have arrived during the present year, against 32,118 up to the same date in 1861. The number of immigrants remaining on Ward's Island is 635. The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$15,379 remaining in the bank to the credit of the Commissioners.

The bark Reindeer, 243 tons register, seized and libelled by the Marshal on Tuesday, on suspicion of being about to engage in the slave trade, is owned by G. A. Lillendahl, of this city, by whom she has been fitted out for a whaling voyage to the North Atlantic Ocean, during which the master, who is well known among our shipping merchants as an old and experienced whaler, intends to test the merits of his new invention of a "rocket gun" in the capture of whales. From the fact of this vessel having previously made a slave voyage, her reputation led the Custom House officials to carefully watch her movements on her arrival at this port, and on the 25th inst., two days before the Marshal libelled her, a revenue officer was placed on board of her by order of the Collector, and a thorough examination made of her cargo and outfit. We are authorized by the owners to say that there has not been any application yet made by them at the Custom House for a clearance, nor has there been any attempt to sail out of port, as reported. Permission was granted by the Custom House authorities to anchor in the stream for the purpose of enabling the master to retain his crew on board when shipped. It is to be hoped that this conflict of jurisdiction over cases like this, between the Marshal and the Revenue Department, may not lead to unfavorable results, nor be the means at any time of defeating the ends of justice.

Ernest Lefferts, a Frenchman, was arrested yesterday by Lee and McCoy, United States Marshals, on a charge of stabbing George Rees, second mate of the ship Piscataway, on her recent voyage from Cadiz to New York. The prisoner was committed and the mate was sent to the City Hospital.

An important case, for the condemnation of \$75,000 of Southern bonds and gold, is now pending before Judge Smalley, in the United States District Court.

The trial of Charles H. Bunt, charged with the homicide of Bendix Thorsen, was continued yesterday in the Court of General Sessions. The evidence was very conflicting as to the origin of the difficulty in which the defendant and the deceased were engaged; and as there was no possibility of the jury agreeing, they were discharged from a further consideration of the case. Counsel for Robert W. Butler, charged with violating the Concert Saloon act, put in a special plea of guilty, &c., to which the District Attorney demurred. The questions of law will be argued before the City Judge on Friday. The trial of William Williams, indicted for a misdemeanor, was commenced in the afternoon, and will be finished on Thursday. The accused was a driver of one of the Fourth avenue freight cars, and it is charged that in December last he drove so rapidly that, when near the switch at the Cooper Institute, he ran into a Third avenue passenger car and smashed it; but fortunately the passengers escaped uninjured.

Stocks were all better yesterday, and there was a fair demand for the speculative railway shares at the advance. Pacific Mail rose 1½ per cent, and was in demand. Governments were firmer. There was less excitement in the money market, and bankers were glad to lend at 4 per cent. The street is gradually resuming its wonted serenity and cheerfulness. Gold was not so firm.

The market for beef cattle was still further depressed yesterday, and it was with no little difficulty that Tuesday's prices were realized. The range was from 6½ to 8½ cents, with occasional sales at rather higher prices. Milch cows were sold at \$30 to \$40. Veals were plenty and dull at 3½ to 5½ cents. Sheep and lambs were less active, and 25 to 31 cents per head lower than last week. Swine sold at 3½ to 3¾ cents for heavy corn fed, 3¼ to 3½ for light corn fed, and 2½ to 3¾ for still fed. The total receipts were—3,302 beef cattle, 117 cows, 557 veals, 6,712 sheep and lambs, and 9,244 swine. The cotton market was again higher and firmer yesterday, and closed at an advance of 1½c. per lb. The sales embraced 1,800 bales, closing firm on the basis of 3½ to 3¾c. Some holders late in the day refused to sell under 32c. for middling uplands. Some parties in the trade estimated the present available stock in this market as low as 6,000 bales. Under the influence of large receipts and the late unfavorable advices from Europe, the market for flour was depressed, and prices fell off 5c. per bbl. for most descriptions. Wheat, from the same cause, declined about 2c. per bushel, while the market was less affected for corn, though somewhat less buoyant; sales of Western mixed were made at 45½c. a 47c. for new, and at 47½c. a 49c.

for old Western mixed, in store and delivered, chiefly at 45c. Pork was in moderate request, with sales of mess at \$12 25 and prime at \$9 62½ a \$9 75. Sugars were steady and in good request, with sales of 1,375 hhds. and 90 boxes at full prices. Coffee was more active; sales 3,200 bags Rio were made on private terms, and 200 bags Jamaica at 20½c. Freight was unchanged, while engagements were moderate; wheat to Liverpool, in bags, was taken at 10½d.; and corn, in bulk, at 9½d. a 9¾d., with flour at 2s. 6d.; wheat, to London, was engaged at 11½d. in ship's bags.

Our Late Disaster in the Valley of Virginia and its Causes and Consequences.

Where lies the responsibility for the late disastrous repulse of the remnant of the army of General Banks from the great valley of Virginia? The newspapers of the indignant North, to a considerable extent, are pouring out their vials of wrath upon the head of Secretary Stanton. One of this class of journals, for instance, denounces his "management of the War Department" as "an intolerable nuisance which ought to be abated;" while another describes the unfortunate Secretary as "an official who possesses patriotism without discretion and enthusiasm without judgment, and who is as ready to exaggerate the terrors of his work to-day as he was to rush upon them yesterday." But Mr. Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, adroitly saddles the whole responsibility in the premises upon the President, who has only to give his orders, and secretaries and generals are bound to obey. But let us go a little deeper into the merits of this matter, and we will doubtless soon reach the true solution of the mystery of this repulse of General Banks from the Shenandoah valley.

The Secretary of War, we all know, is a lawyer and not a soldier; but granting that he "possesses patriotism without discretion and enthusiasm without judgment," he is still but a subordinate of the President. Thus far Mr. Senator Wilson is right, and the responsibility falls back upon the President; but Mr. Wilson has, unfortunately, neglected to confess that from the President this responsibility may be traced to the radical, disorganizing abolition negro brigade of Congress, to which alone the public indignation may be justly directed.

In a legal and technical view, the President, as the head of the government, the army and navy, is responsible to the country for the defeats and disasters of our troops where successes could and should have been secured. But we know, on the other hand, that Congress is the supreme law making power; that the President is dependent upon Congress for the men, the ways and means with which to carry on the war, and that the shaping of every act of Congress, in reference to the war, is in the hands of certain committees of the two houses which are controlled by the chiefs of our abolition negro brigade. Thus, for example, Mr. Wilson, as the head of the Committee on Military Affairs in the Senate, occupies an official position in the legislative branch of the government which the President is bound to respect, and hence the views and suggestions of Mr. Wilson in regard to the management and conduct of the war must command, in a liberal degree, the confidence of the President, whatever may be the peculiar differences of opinion between these two public agents.

In the next place, it would be simply impossible for the President to attend to all the multifarious details connected with the management and movements of the army. This business belongs especially to the Secretary of War; and we speak not at random, but state what we believe to be a very important fact, when we say that the Secretary of War has been victimized by the chiefs of these ruling committees of Congress of the abolition negro brigade into all this budget of military blunders, culminating in this unfortunate repulse of General Banks from the valley of Virginia. We are also convinced that had General McClellan made himself, even so late as three months ago, an abolition army politician of the school of General Fremont, the disaster which has fallen upon General Banks would have been abundantly guarded against by the abolition politicians of Congress.

Our readers will remember that when the rebel army, in March last, evacuated Manassas, a regular onslaught of the abolition radicals of Congress was made upon General McClellan. He was jeered with the clamor that he had "outamped the rebels;" that he had been frightened all winter by a lot of "quaker guns;" that he had permitted the enemy to slip through his fingers, because he was too much of a pro-slavery apologist to believe the "intelligent contrabands" who in season informed him how Johnston was evacuating his Potomac line; that McClellan's army, five times in numbers the dismantled army of Johnston, was too much for McClellan; and, lastly, that he would not advance "for fear of hurting somebody." What followed? McClellan's army was divided into three armies, and with half his previous force he was shipped off to Yorktown. As he advances he finds the enemy in front in much superior numbers to his own. He calls for reinforcements. They are supplied from General McDowell; but thus depieced, McDowell becomes apprehensive of danger and calls for other troops. They are supplied from the army of General Banks, who has thus been pounced upon, cut up, despoiled and driven out by those watchful rebel guerrillas, Generals Johnson and Ewell.

But why was not General Banks reinforced from some other quarter? We answer, that it was because Mr. Senator Wilson, the head of the Military Committee of the Senate, and his Congressional abolition clique, after the rebel evacuation of Manassas, brought about the suspension of volunteering; that the hostility of this clique to General McClellan and his well considered plans was at the bottom of this movement, and that these abolition radicals have been playing their cards with our armies in Virginia so as to bring about some great disaster, under the pressure of which the administration and the army might be dragged headlong into an exterminating crusade against Southern slavery.

This is our solution of this unfortunate repulse of General Banks. We trace it to the enmity of Senators Wilson, Trumbull, Sumner and others of that clique in the Senate, and to Thaddeus Stevens, Lovejoy and their abolition brethren of the House; and to their successful tricks and intrigues to break up the army and the plans of General McClellan, to stop recruits for the army, when fifty thousand more men were needed to secure our conquests in Virginia, and a hundred thousand more to push the rebels speedily out of the State. Let the responsibility then rest where it belongs. We cannot consent that either the President or the Secretary of War shall be made the scapegoat for a disaster which properly belongs to the abolition negro brigade of Congress.

General McClellan and the Little Villain.

In yesterday's issue we published a despatch from General McClellan to Secretary Stanton, reminding him that "some of the newspapers publishing letters from their correspondents with the army, giving important information concerning our movements, positions of troops, &c., in positive violation of your orders," and suggesting that, as it is "impossible to ascertain with certainty who these anonymous writers are," "another order be published, holding the editors responsible for its infraction."

This hint of General McClellan's is a very reasonable one, and it is much more considerate and just than a general order driving all newspaper correspondents from his camps. He should have stated, however, in what newspapers the contraband information of which he complains has appeared. It is true that the correspondents of newspapers write anonymously, and that General McClellan would find it difficult, perhaps, to identify them; but certainly he must be aware of the names of the journals at fault, and he might have reported them to Secretary Stanton. As his despatch now reads all newspapers are blamed alike when obviously all are not to blame. The Herald, for example, has been most careful in its publication of war news. Not only have we strictly cautioned our correspondents not to send contraband intelligence for publication, but we have always revised our war letters before printing them, and suppressed any news which might be of service to the enemy. We were informed by our reporter with General Banks' division of the diminution of that corps d'armee and of its consequent peril; but we refrained from giving this important information to the public until General Banks' retreat made further concealment unnecessary. As in this instance, so in all others, the Herald has been cautious to publish nothing concerning the strength, movements or positions of our forces, except in cases where it was evident that the enemy had been let into the secret by the cannon's mouth and could not be benefited by the Herald's disclosures.

But while this has been the practice of the Herald since the commencement of hostilities and before any order from the War Department upon the subject, we are aware that several other journals of this city have not exercised the same loyal and discreet caution in regard to their war news. Recently, however—and General McClellan's order plainly refers to recent publications—we have noticed but one New York journal which has infringed the order of Secretary Stanton, and revealed the Union strength, movements and plans to the enemy. This journal is the New York Times—to which paper, together with the babbling sheets of Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis, this complaint of General McClellan probably refers. For some time past the Hon. Henry Jenkins Raymond, editor of the Times, Speaker of the last Assembly and general "Little Villain," has been following the army, and we have frequently noticed passages in his letters which were decidedly contraband. But what could have been expected of this little reprobate? All the army knew very well that Raymond's tongue was as swift as his legs, and that he could not help prattling all he knew any more than he could help scampering from a phantom Austrian at Solferino or fleeing from the imaginary Black Horse cavalry at Bull Run. Once, having dined with General Scott, Raymond published a report of the private, confidential conversation at table, and showed that he knew nothing of the usages of good society and less of the potency of good wine. Again, having been invited to Fortress Monroe by General Butler, he revealed all the secrets of the fortress, to the intense indignation of the astonished General and the corresponding delight of the grateful rebels. It will be seen, therefore, that it is as impossible for Raymond to keep a secret as it is for poor Greeley to keep his temper, in both of which requisites of successful journalism we are, as Gay of the Tribune puts it, "constantly ahead." General McClellan ought never to have allowed Raymond to accompany his army, and then there would have been no such complaints. As for "holding the editors responsible," that is hardly necessary, since the editors are responsible for their own papers already, and since such a provision would not include Raymond, who is editor and correspondent by turns, and would thus escape the penalty in some way; and who never could be held responsible for his revelations because he is decidedly non compos mentis, and would be acquitted by any court martial on the ground of moral insanity in regard to military news.

THE TRADE OF NORFOLK.—The measures taken by General Wool to bring back the rebel authorities of Norfolk to their allegiance are not, it seems to us, the best calculated to effect that object. It is not by rendering the condition of the people of that city as bad or worse than it was under the Confederate regime that they will be taught to appreciate the advantages of their being restored to the Union. Moreover, it should not be forgotten that the interdiction placed upon the importation of food and other necessities from the North will inflict continued distress and suffering upon many who have been looking to the success of our arms for relief from the privations to which they have been subjected by the blockade. Numbers of these are sincere Unionists, although they are afraid to give expression to their real sentiments until they are convinced that there is no danger of General Huger realizing his threat of again returning to the city. The parties whom it is more immediately desired to coerce by these restrictive measures are, unfortunately, those who are least affected by them. They belong to the wealthier class of secessionists, and have taken care to provide against being starved into submission. It is best, therefore, to pursue a liberal and generous policy, not only in regard to Norfolk, but in reference to all the Southern cities that fall into our hands. The President has initiated that policy by his proclamation throwing open the ports of New Orleans, Port Royal and Beaufort to the trade of the North, and we think it ill advised on the part of General Wool to pursue a course which must contribute to keep alive the existing feelings of exasperation among the secessionists, and to dishearten still more those who are well affected towards us. The true policy, in our opinion, is at once to let the old flag carry with it, wherever it is planted, the benefits and protection that we ourselves enjoy under it.

MUSICAL TALES AT DOWNTOWN HALL.—There will be an interesting musical entertainment at this hall to-night, "A Maiden's Choice," illustrated by recitations, music and tableaux, will form the attraction of the evening. The proceeds are for a charitable purpose, and the effort deserves success.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1862.

THE SENATE'S PROGRESS ON THE TAX BILL.
The Senate, having disposed of the committee amendments to the Tax bill, have been occupied to-day in considering the miscellaneous amendments. Very little change has been made. It appears to be the determination to reduce the duty on spirits to fifteen cents, and to adopt Sherman's proposition to tax stock on hand ten cents a gallon.

EMANCIPATION OF THE SLAVES OF REBELS.

The responsibility for the consideration of the emancipation bill to-day is attributed to Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, who presented a motion to reconsider and lay the bill on the table at the time. The bill was defeated by four majorities.

The practical mischief of the inconsiderate emancipation of the negroes has been demonstrated by the hundreds collected here and living upon the bounty of the government. They have no work, and want none; but live in absolute idleness at the public expense. This example, however, was not sufficient to deter the Jacobins from reconsidering the Emancipation bill to-day. They succeeded by a majority of four. Mr. Davis, as well as Mr. Porter, changed his vote, and two others who were absent when the bill was rejected came in. There were absent four who would have voted against the reconsideration and defeated it.

The greater part of the session in the House to-day was occupied in the maneuvers, pro and con, in regard to this reconsideration. Motions for a call of the House and to adjourn were repeatedly resorted to, and all the parliamentary devices for delay were called into requisition, without avail. The bill was reconsidered, and material amendments are proposed. It is apparent that the sweeping character of the measure must be altered so as to restrict it to particular classes of slave owners. Provision will also be made for colonization, with a view to sugar the pill for the palate of the President, who is pledged to approve no emancipation bill which does not provide for the deportation of the emancipated negroes out of the States in which they are held as slaves.

It is contended by farseeing members of Congress that the House bill will not pass the Senate. The radicals are divided between Collier's and Sherman's bill. Each faction, it is believed, will adhere to its own peculiar views in regard to what is essential to render the bill constitutional; but both will oppose the House bill, which, if assimilated to either of the Senate bills, will be opposed by the other faction in the Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.
In the list of appropriations in bills that have passed the House, but are not finally disposed of, published in Monday's New York papers, there was omitted the appropriation of five millions for bounties to soldiers.

COLLECTOR FOR BEAUFORT.

The President has appointed, and the Senate confirmed, John A. Hedrick Collector for the port of Beaufort, N. C.

MOVEMENTS OF GENERAL SIGEL.

Gen. Sigel visited the Capitol to-day, and was warmly welcomed by Congressmen.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AND THE STEVENS BATTERY.

The letter of the Secretary of the Navy to Congress concerning the Stevens battery states that, as the appropriation was conditioned to take effect when it was made clear to the Secretary that it would be effective for war purposes, he had appointed a board to make another examination of the battery in question. It consisted of Captain C. H. Davis, United States Navy; Colonel Richard D. DeWolf, United States Army; S. M. Cook, naval constructor; S. V. Morrell, Esq., of Philadelphia, and Moses Taylor, of New York. They made themselves acquainted with the views and plans of Mr. Stevens, read the descriptions presented, and inspected the vessel and models and armament. They express the opinion that the Stevens plan will not result in such a vessel or battery as the law requires. At the same time they say the modifications may be made in accordance with recent improvements in the art of war which will accomplish the desired object. Considering that the appropriation was designed to carry out the original plan, the Secretary refers the matter back to Congress.

It is intimated by those who are anxious for the completion of iron clad vessels that the appropriation was intended for the completion of this battery, with whatever modifications the board appointed should deem necessary. Each member of the board has a plan of modification, but as they have not yet been presented, there is not much hope that anything of a practical nature will be accomplished in the premises for some time. The difficulty of creating a harmonious whole from the ideas of half a dozen persons is more easily imagined than described.

NAVAL ORDERS AND PROMOTIONS.

The following officers have been ordered to the United States steamer South Carolina:

Commander John Almy, detached from the New York yard; Acting Master T. D. Brower, detached from the Minnesota; Acting Master Frederick F. Bury, detached from the Albatross; Lieutenant J. M. Macomber, detached from the Albatross; Lieutenant W. H. Davis, ordered to the gunboat Tennessee; Paymaster James F. Felt, ordered to the Albatross; S. H. Fish, of Williamsburg, N. Y., principal Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to report to Commodore Partridge for duty; Acting Master W. V. Randall, detached from the Albatross; and Lieutenant J. M. Macomber, detached from the Albatross, and ordered to report to the Secretary of the Navy.

MANUEVER OF THE NEW ENGLAND MANUFACTURERS ON THE TAX BILL.

The agents of New England manufacturers have not spent the winter here for nothing. Their object has been to get of the excise rates from articles manufactured by their establishments, and they have succeeded in a large way, so far as cotton is concerned. The Senate has struck out the tax of one cent per pound on cotton, which was proposed by the House; and thus a productive income of millions upon millions is jeopardized, the pretense for such action is that the burden will fall upon labor; but all the fabrics used yearly by a common laborer can be made from three pounds of raw cotton. His tax, therefore, would not be above three or four cents a year on that score. But the New England cotton manufacturers would save millions yearly, by saying nothing of their other and better reasons.

The New England Senators went in generally for this favor to capitalists. Their excuse to the people will be that they can accomplish the object of raising a large tax from slaveholders by taxing their slaves. Such a motion was made to-day in the Senate by Mr. Sumner, and, since tax on this head will probably prevail, Mr. Fessenden supported the proposition in a moderate way, saying that he did so not as a plan of punishing slaveholders, but to make them, as well as others who were making money, contribute to the public expenditure. It may be asked how Senators who refused to tax retailers of liquors, because it legalized their traffic, got in for taking slaves.

THE STEVENS FLOATING BATTERY.

The Secretary of the Navy has furnished Congress with the result of the examination by a special board of Stevens' battery as an efficient means of coast defense. They think that for this purpose it will require essential modifications, owing to the recent improvements in naval warfare. As the Secretary believes it was the intention of Congress to supply \$600,000, heretofore appropriated, upon the battery, according to the original plan, should it have been